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THE GLASS VANDALS.

We trust that the combined efforts of the police and the merchants may result in the speedy apprehension of the vandals who, in one night, rained nearly \$10,000 worth of plate glass in Broad Street windows. The detective ability of the department will be put to a severe test, because of the difficulty of fathoming such a crime. It is both unusual and pointless. This means that the police have little precedent to guide them, and cannot trace the crime by seeking its motive.

Indeed, this seems a case for the psychologist rather than the plain clothes man. Such senseless destruction of property that cannot benefit the vandal seems to hint at a mania. There is plenty of scientific data to show the queer perversions of the destructive mania takes. In its extreme form it reaches the cutting and slashing of people. It may be quite possible that some abnormal specimen of humanity finds a peculiar nervous pleasure in cutting the lines on the glistering surface of plate glass.

There are less remote explanations of the mischief. The fact that all these windows have to be replaced suggests the idea that a glazier out of a job, wrought havoc to make his kind of work plentiful. The possession of the diamond-pointed tool hints at such an owner. We may, too, look for the plain old motive of revenge, though, what kind of grudge any man or woman could harbor against a whole group of merchants is not readily conceived. Again the deranged mentality might exaggerate the fancied wrong of one firm into a reason for despoiling a whole street.

In other cities, a possible reason might be the development of the syndicalist philosophy of petty injury to property to bring about less and so economic change. In France, the workers are known to drop bolts in machinery, and put sand in delicate bearings. Such injury to property by the workers themselves is called "sabotage." There is no labor trouble in Richmond, however, to make this explanation even probable. The evils of syndicalism do not trouble us. Richmond will be interested in the solution of this puzzle, for the sake of its merchants, who must be protected against repetitions of vandalism, and because the crime presents an interesting study. Thanks to the fatal habit of evil-doers, there are the slight clues of the initials and designs cut on the glass. May some Sherlock Holmes speedily read their meaning.

A NEW PLAN FOR PATRONAGE.

In a decade the President of the United States will be short of all power of making appointments. Federal offices will be filled by commission. Such is the radical prophecy made to the Boston Transcript by a public man who has deeply studied national questions, who is also of opinion that this sensational change will be effected by the pressure of a public opinion, which will forbid the placing of so much power in the hands of the President.

It is a fact that it has long been a question as to whether the presidential patronage power is too great. In 1903 Roosevelt nominated Taft for the presidency by use of patronage in the South to crush out all opposition to his candidate. Before the national convention of that year the Hittchcock steam roller was ruthlessly run over all delegates from the South who appeared to contest the seats of the Taft delegates selected by and composed of Federal officeholders appointed by Roosevelt in 1901. The Taft managers were able to renounce Taft only with the assistance of Southern delegates holding office under the administration.

The movement to limit, if not eliminate, the presidential patronage is in embryo. It is said, "It aims to remove this menace to individual independence from the field of legislation, and is in line with the broadening sweep of the idea of popular rule." The Constitution empowers the President to appoint members of the diplomatic and consular service, justices of the Supreme Court, and all other officers not provided for in the instrument, but it also authorizes Congress to vest the appointment of "such inferior officers, as they may think proper," in the President, the courts, or in the heads of departments. It seems, then, that although the President possesses certain powers by constitutional right, Congress is also vested with authority over a great many thousand offices in importance equal to those enumerated in the organic law.

The authority of which the advocates of the new plan would divest the President is not so much that of appointment as of recommendation. They would lodge the power of recommendation in a special commission.

The proposed reform, we are told, is not aimed at the administration, but seeks change in patronage in patronage methods on general principles. It will be recalled that President Taft, when in office, urged radical steps in the direction.

THE FALL OF SULZER.

The verdict of the High Court of Impeachment of the State of New York is in accord with the expectation of the country. The prosecution made out a case against the only Governor of New York who has ever been impeached. The defense failed utterly, sending the accused to doom by default.

The evidence of the guilt of Sulzer cannot be blinded by even the most uncompromising foes of Tammany and its methods, yet the motive of the movers for the impeachment proceedings was grounded in revenge and not in patriotism. The grim law of political reprisal has prevailed. Sulzer may be indicted of many evil things, but not of servility. He threw down the gauntlet where others would never have done it.

There is no appeal from the decision of the Court of Impeachment save to popular vindication. Sulzer proclaims that "this fight has just begun." The people still trust him, and when I have told them the truth they will fight the injustice that has been done. Inasmuch as the court has refused to deliver him from holding public office in the future, he may re-open his case before the people on the hustings.

The underlying facts of the Sulzer case are common in American politics. Difficult is the path of the politician who would rise to place and power without putting himself under compromising obligations. Fortunately that public servant who, in the discharge of his office, has no political debts to pay. Fortunately the politician who at no time in his career veers from the straight, narrow road! Woe to that man who thinks to board the "Boss and prevaricator." The finest filling system in the world is composed of the cashed papers and mental inventory of the political master-manipulator. Samuel G. Hylton's story, "The Price of Office," is a true presentment of the pitfalls in the way of the pure patriot who would hold exalted public station.

Does anybody believe that Sulzer would have been impeached if he had remained loyal to Tammany? He paid the price of what in Tammany's eyes was unforgivable treachery and inexcusable inappreciation. Tammany broke him on the wheel as it will break any other like offender against its imperial decree.

How has the mighty fallen? Here a man from the ranks, a self-made, popular leader of almost three decades of public service of the people and trusted by them, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National House of Representatives, Governor of New York and prospective candidate for the presidency! An idol of the people? Yes, but an idol with feet of clay. In the twinkling of an eye he topples to the earth prone and broken.

THE PROGRESS OF SEGREGATION.

The policy of residential restriction based upon color lines is broadening and increasing in the United States. Segregation ordinances have been passed by Richmond, Norfolk, Roanoke, Danville and Ashland, Greenville, S. C., Winston-Salem, N. C., and Atlanta. In three cases the lower courts have sustained the local laws, which have gone into the higher courts for test. In St. Louis, a Republican city, an ordinance has been introduced. Kansas City and Louisville are interested in the plan, and the question is being agitated in New Orleans and Birmingham.

The principal test is in Baltimore, where there is one of the largest negro populations in the world. A segregation ordinance was enacted. The Supreme Court of Maryland found it unconstitutional on technical grounds, but upheld the fact of segregation and gave hints as to how it might be accomplished. A new ordinance in line with these judicial suggestions has been passed. Its framers disclaim race antagonism and put the whole argument on police regulation and property protection.

In Chicago, another form of segregation is being outlined. The first step is an ordinance defining residential districts. The declared purpose is to bring about the segregation of industries. Chicago's successful men want protection for their homes. It is another aspect of the same problem that faces cities that have race situations to solve.

Here is a new kind of dry farming. An Illinois man planted some of his corn four inches deep, and the rest ten inches deep. The shallow planting yielded thirty bushels per acre; the deep, sixty-five.

Virginia need not worry about immigration very much when our vital statistics show that one county has the highest birth rate ever reported in such figures. This immigration of "native Virginians" is what we need.

Why can't Richmond employ a few experts to stay here all the time and help run things?

Maybe President Wilson is consulting these star ball players and actresses about getting a little money to start his currency system with.

They ought to know a lot about gas in London. They have to burn it about twenty hours a day there.

Edward McCall, Tammany candidate for Mayor of New York, says the thought of entering the Mayor's office makes him sit "white-faced." What scares him—the job of the Tiger?

According to Connie Mack, our old friend, "Rube" Marquard, is just a plain writer, nothing more.

Montclair, N. J., is waging war on all dangerous weeds. Does this include widows' weeds?

It may be true fashions were never so varied as this year. It's a cinch, they were never so very odd.

Will the Governor of New Hampshire please postpone deciding the Thaw case forever? This quiet is so restful.

PRIVATE OR PUBLIC GAS?

Richmond has no idea of giving the gas business over to a private corporation. Recent expression of opinion on that point seems conclusive. Yet Richmond might well ask why gas experts declare that municipal plants are not as successful as privately-owned plants. Even though the experts represent private enterprises, their testimony is worth considering for the light it may throw on our own problems. We do not imagine any one can say that the Richmond plant is more or less of a success as a public enterprise than if it were a private undertaking. The reason is that nobody knows just how successful the Richmond plant is. Its condition is not reduced to a plain basis. Perhaps that its affairs are not on this sound business footing is one of the arguments against municipal ownership.

In theory, everything should favor city ownership. The gas plant has a monopoly in a thickly-settled territory. It has practically unlimited capital back of it. It can employ the same grade of labor hired by private employers save for a silly restriction as to the local residence of some of the employees. No private concern would think of getting its engineers from Richmond if it thought it could do better by securing them anywhere else in the world. That is one count against our plan. A second may lie in the fact that we do not, perhaps, pay as high salaries as do private companies to their expert superintendents. If we got the experts, however, we could afford to pay just as much, and still make a profit.

In the matter of buying materials the city should be on the same footing with other buyers. There have been rumors of price-boosting to hurt the Richmond plant because it is among the largest city-owned gas-works in this country. No one has ever offered any proof of this conspiracy. The city should be able to buy its supplies in the market at just what the private plant pays.

So much for theory. In practice, every municipal undertaking gets into politics. The element of efficiency in delivering results is more or less sacrificed to political ends. We suppose this is the gist of the criticism our friends would offer. Every man and every end—making money for the owners. These owners exercise strict supervision over their affairs and demand results. In municipal enterprises, the owners, who are the citizens, fail to exercise this supervision, and they do not demand results.

If our gas plant is not as profitable to us as would be a private plant, this is the plain reason. The remedy is equally obvious.

THE COST OF PIONEERING.

Germany is paying a heavy price for her mastery of the air in the dirigible airship. Yet she is paying the price because she is learning. Frightful catastrophes like the two recent disasters to German military airships are the result of ambition that has overleaped itself, but not of fundamental failure in air craft. We hear of the accidents. We forget that there are airships in Germany that have made 400 trips. The loss in passengers per mile traveled is being reduced every day.

The accident that sent the ill-fated "Zeppelin" careening to the ground a mass of flames and the tomb of twenty-seven men emphasizes a risk that is inherent in such machines. Let this risk can be overcome by the ingenuity of men. Every dirigible is an aerial bomb, needing only the cap to explode it. It is made up of explosive gas, plus a cargo of inflammable gasoline, and the spark that sets the engine in motion may also loose ruin in the whole craft. Too such an extent has science lessened the dangers of explosion, that it is related now a thoughtless traveler on a Zeppelin lighted a match for his cigarette before he realized that he was fooling with death.

It may be true that these twin accidents will stop the development of airships, but we doubt it. Enough has already been achieved to tempt men to any risk that they may perfect true ships of the air. Even if we admit that they may not be suited for war, there is all the vast field of peace to win. The study of higher air currents and weather conditions has already been of vast importance to meteorologists. By wireless, these vessels communicate with the earth, and they might almost trail a storm through the heavens, sending out warnings to men below. The value of these cloud-piercing craft as hospitals is just coming to light. It is said that many diseases can be treated satisfactorily in the sterile upper air. Tuberculosis has shown signs of yielding its dread way before pure air. Scurvy may some day float above the dirt and infection of the lower earth.

So far, Germany has proved that ships 300 and 500 feet long can carry passengers and guns for hundreds of miles at high rates of speed. Their vessels are safe in storms, dirigible, and can be launched or anchored with comparative ease. Every mechanical problem attacked has been solved. It is not possible that this brave pioneering will be fruitless of great good to men.

What do the clairvoyants want with a hearing? Let 'em read their fate in the stars.

Having been unable to do anything about a Union Station or annexation, Richmond will now dream dreams about changing the water supply. Yet a few months ago it required vigorous effort to get a simple health precaution added to the present equipment. Ishshibibib!

Tests of Zeppelins have so far proved that they can all come down.

The debate now seems to be whether a convention or a piano factory does Richmond most good.

ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

The New Village Store, the village store has changed a pile, or so it seems to me. It's different in stock and style from the cracker barrel's vanished now. The cracker barrel's gone from sight. There's nothing left around, I vow, to tempt your appetite.

There's no place left for us to sit. Our wisdom must haunt that store. Aren't heard there any more. The place is all so spick and span and certified and smart. It's simply broken up the clan and cracked each loafer's heart.

I know it's making money fast since it never made much in the past, but those were good old days. It was the moneying place, the hub, in that glad time of yore. It was the forum of the club—and now it's just a store.

From the Hickeyville Clinion.

One thing that always pleases a country editor and makes him believe in the north living is to spend several years educating the people to trade at home and then have the money come back to the city to have their job printing done. Miss Amy Fringle says she will never wear hoop skirts again. She used to have one, but she sold the wire in it to the telephone company to construct the line between here and West Hickeyville, thirteen miles.

A farmer's mule balked at the road and remained balked, although the farmer did everything excepting build a fire under him. As he was about to resort to this method of starting the mule, the country doctor came along. The farmer asked the physician if he could give him something to start the mule. The doctor said that he could, and, reaching down in his medicine case, he gave the animal some powders. The mule switched his tail, tossed his head and started down the road at a lively gallop. The farmer looked first at the flying mule and then at the doctor. "How much does that medicine cost?" he asked. "Oh, about 15 cents," replied the doctor. "Give me a quarter, fourth quick," said the farmer. "I've got to catch that mule!"

Stuck to His Story.

The bronzed gentleman with an anchor tattooed upon his wrist stood at the end of the bar and sipped his toddy. "I have just returned from a trip to Europe," said he. "I was on a tramp steamer and had a terrible experience."

"Well, when we were two days out of Havre we ran into a tremendous storm and our ship began to leak. All day we worked the pumps. The water came rushing in spite of our efforts and the great waves toyed with that ship as though it were a toy. When an officer came on deck I was in the captain's cabin engaged in a game of cards. Back with the captain and the first mate when the end came. The boat went down like a shot. I heard and every soul on board was drowned. The name of the ship was Nancy Lee."

"But," interrupted the bartender, "if everybody on board was drowned, you must have been drowned, too. The stranger glared at the assembled throng and said, 'I was'—even then took the pledge that day."

The Autumn.

The backbone of summer is broken. And now come the days that are dreary. The farmer is threshing his pumpkins. And saving the best for the fair. The yellow leaves are falling. The yellow leaves are falling. The yellow leaves are falling. But I'm not dead in love with the season.

My spirits are dismal and dank. I must buy a fall suit for my darling. And my checks are N. G. at the bank.

AIRMAN NARROWLY ESCAPES INJURY

Machine Badly Damaged, but Aviator Escapes—Woman Hurt in Midway Attraction.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Danville, Va., October 17. The last day of the Danville Fair, the greatest day in the history of the fair association, people were following him in the neighborhood of 20,000 people. While making his flight to-day, the young aviator, Fred McLaughlin, fell from the air and was killed. He was 100 feet or more in the air, and dropped to earth near the old race track at the fair grounds. After he had risen from the ground and had taken his course in a northeasterly direction, people were following him in their automobiles heard an unusual sputtering sound coming from the motor of the air craft and in a short while the exhaust that comes from the whirling motor ceased and the aviator was seen to fall from the sky. The ground. Even after the motor had failed to run, he seemed to have perfect control of the machine, and while the descent was a little more direct than is generally the case, and the machine was badly damaged, the aviator escaped serious injury.

Mrs. Harry Wooding, Jr., while taking in one of the fair attractions last night, received a painful and probably a serious accident to her spine. In one of the midway attractions, there is a slide upon which one is precipitated after entering an elevator effect, and while on the slide, Mrs. Wooding has been injured, there is danger attached to it, as is proven by the fact that Mrs. Wooding is confined to her bed after a trip through the show. Up to this time doctors called in have been unable to ascertain the extent of Mrs. Wooding's injury, as her spine is so badly swollen that it was not deemed safe to operate on it. A more serious condition by making a thoroughly examination.

Abe Martin



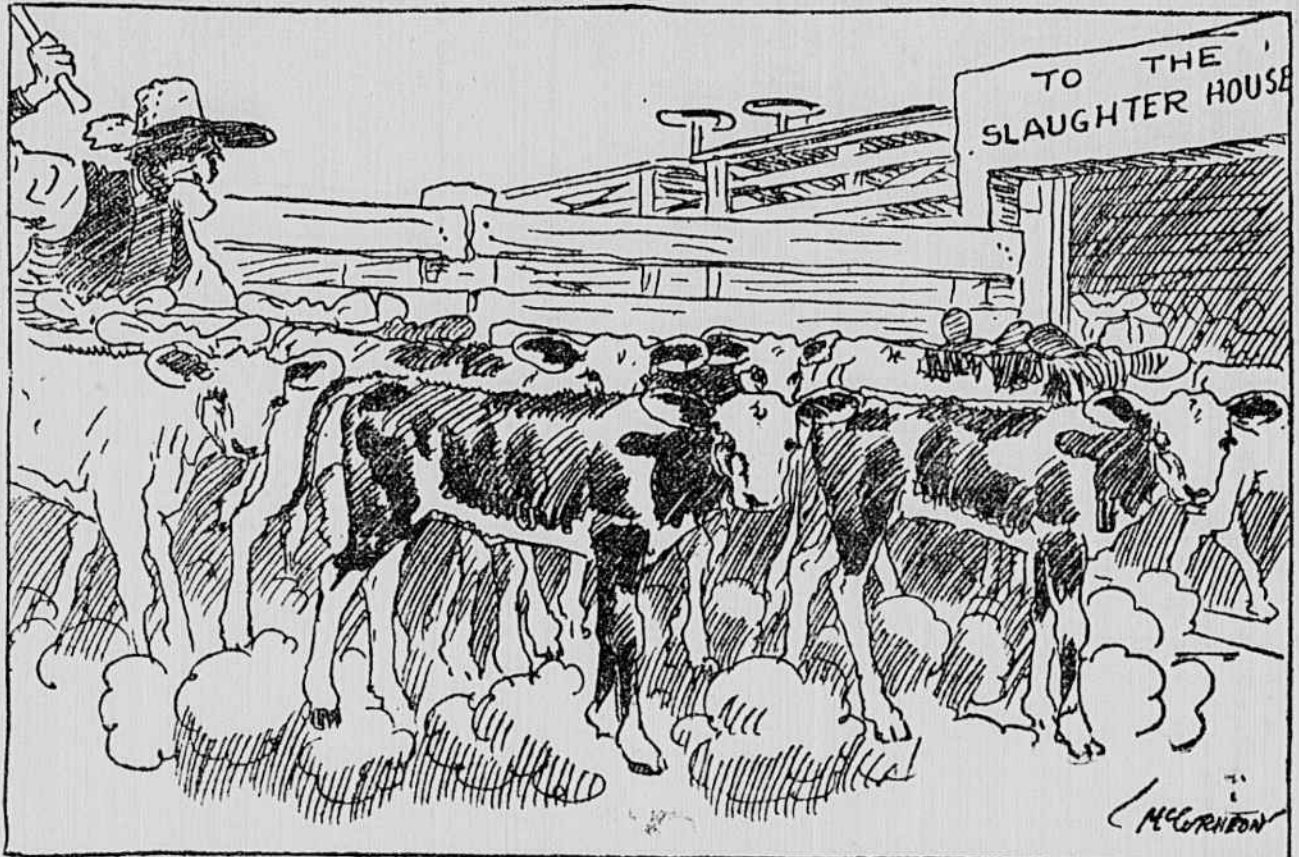
THE BEEF SHORTAGE PROBLEM.

By John T. McCutcheon.

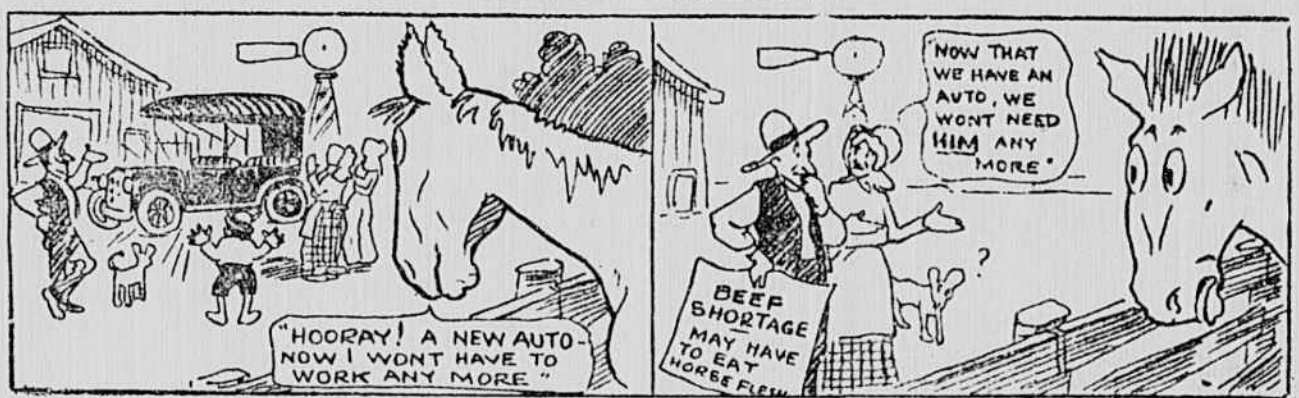
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This is one of the causes of the shortage.



The slaughter of calves is another.



And this may be one of the grim possibilities.

NEWS OF SOUTH RICHMOND

COMPLAIN OF STATION

Democratic Club Appoints Committee to Intervene Southern Railway People. In response to repeated complaints of the very poor conditions at the Southern Railway station, on the Southside, the South Richmond Democratic Club last night appointed a committee, of which C. B. Anderson is chairman, to confer with a similar body from the Business Men's Association, and to take the matter up with the officials of the company. The station was said to be unsanitary, and its location unsafe, as passengers are compelled to cross tracks to reach it. Sufficient lights are also not provided, it is alleged.

Mr. Anderson, a member of the committee which was appointed at the last meeting on street car service, reported that considerable improvement has been shown on the Hull Street and Forest Hill lines since the matter was taken up with the Virginia Railway and Power Company. Some features of the agreement are yet to be carried out, as passengers are still compelled to cross tracks to reach it. Sufficient lights are also not provided, it is alleged.

Funeral of Mrs. Mayo. The funeral services of Mrs. Frances E. Mayo, eighty years old, a well known resident of the Southside, who died at her home, 1811 Porter Street, yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, following a long illness, will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from Porter Street Presbyterian Church. Rev. Wesley Baker, the pastor, will officiate. Mrs. Mayo is survived by two daughters, Misses Ella and Lalla Mayo, and three sons, Mr. L. Mayo, of Petersburg; Thomas H. Mayo, of South Richmond, and William Mayo, of Richmond.

Parcel Post Increases. The Report which has been sent by the Superintendent L. B. Lloyd, of Manchester Post Office, to the superintendent of mails, shows a decided increase in the parcel post business for the past fifteen days. The number of parcels sent was 356, the average weight being two pounds and three ounces. Average postage, 11 cents; insured parcels, seventeen; number of parcels received for delivery, 1,003; insured parcels, twenty-two.

Missionary Society Entertains. The Young People's Missionary Society of Central Methodist Church, held an enjoyable social last night in the crowded room of the church. A large crowd was present, the congregation being invited. Following a musical program, which was well rendered by Southside talent, refreshments were served.

Fined for Resisting Officer. Benjamin Vona, of Oak Grove, was fined \$5 and costs yesterday morning by Judge L. W. Clements, of Swansboro, on the charge of resisting an officer and of disorderly conduct. Vona was arrested on Saturday by County Officer Taylor. The prisoner made strenuous efforts to escape, it is alleged, and when subdued cursed the officer.

Orphans' Day at Stockton Street. Orphans' Day will be observed in Stockton Street Baptist Church tomorrow morning, and interesting program have been arranged. The program is as follows: Song by the school, selection by Renner's quartet, duet by Mrs. W. E. Bethel and W. D. Taylor, selection by the choir, solo, W. L. East; Renner's quartet, and benediction.

Revival to Continue. The evangelistic services which have been conducted in Ashbury Methodist Church this week under the direction of the pastor, Rev. J. R. Eggleston, are growing in interest. The church has been crowded each night. This singing, under the leadership of J. S. Renner, has proved especially good. The revival services will continue next week. There will be a love feast and a testimonial meeting to-morrow morning. At the evening service the pastor will preach on "The Death's Feast."

MERCHANT TELLS OF WIFE-KILLING

Admits He Shot Her While She Slept, Then Gashed Her With His Knife.

WORRIED OVER BUSINESS

Defends His Wife's Honor and Denies Former Statements Reflecting on Her.

Chicago, October 17.—William C. Ellis, the Cincinnati leather merchant, who was found wounded in a hotel room here yesterday near the body of his wife, confessed to a coroner's jury to-day that he had killed the woman. He was held to the grand jury, charged with murder.

After a conference with members of his wife's family, Ellis abandoned his assertion, made at first to the police, that the tragedy was the result of a suicide pact. He assumed the entire blame for the killing and devoted his statement to obliterating the impression, given first, that jealousy was the motive of the crime.

Suffering from cuts on his wrist and throat, self-inflicted after killing his wife, Ellis listened almost all day to the testimony in the coroner's court. His confession was made in a few words.

Confesses His Crime.

"I will state that I shot my wife," he said. "I suppose my mind must have been affected. I was worried over business troubles and the state of my health. I want to say that my wife was the grandest little woman in the world and the most virtuous. There was no trouble between us. She couldn't do anything wrong. She was in bed when I shot her. She did not know what I was going to do. I did not have any intention of doing this when I came to Chicago. I shot her first and gashed her afterwards with a knife."

Ellis, approaching collapse, begged to be allowed to take farewell of his wife's body. He was allowed to see it. From testimony to-day, it appeared that Ellis, who is forty-seven years old, killed his wife, who was twenty years younger than himself, some time in the late hours of Wednesday night.

Ellis's confession came soon after the testimony of a coroner's physician, Dr. J. M. G. Taylor, who testified that the woman's throat was cut after she was dead from bullet wounds.

The Cincinnati man seemed to have regained possession of himself when he rose to make his confession and his voice strengthened as he renounced his previous statements reflecting upon his wife's character.

He said he fired four shots into the woman's body and then gashed her throat. He then shot himself and cut his own throat and wrist. Mrs. Ellis's body will be sent to Cincinnati. Ellis is detained at the House of Correction Hospital.

The National State and City Bank

invites you to open an account either subject to check or at 3% interest in its Savings Department. CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,600,000.00